

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

That the Lord may
continue to bless
Your efforts to
spread His holy
Word throughout the
whole world is the
sincere prayer of
Yours truly

Baroness Lee von
Waechter
in her 96th Year

Pacific School of
Religion
Berkeley, Cal.

THE PRAYER OF A BARONESS

The concluding paragraph of a beautiful letter from an aged friend.

(See page 143)

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Events near the Equator

By the Rev. R. R. Gregory, Secretary, Caribbean Agency

During the past year Col. Lindbergh created a new affection for the countries embraced in the Caribbean Agency of the American Bible Society. This article of Mr. Gregory, Secretary of the Caribbean Agency, includes items from the equatorial area of unusual interest.

A NEW group of believers has sprung up at Supia, Colombia, a town in a mountain region practically isolated from the outside world. Five years ago one of our colporteurs, in company with a missionary, visited the place. Several Bibles were sold, and an acquaintance was made with a number of very friendly people, including a barber who was a regular reader of *El Mensaje Evangelico*, published at Cali, in the southwestern part of Colombia. Later this barber and his son visited Cali and Medellin, and bought not only Bibles and song books, but other evangelical literature. He also secured ten subscriptions to *El Mensaje Evangelico*. The reading of this paper stimulated Bible study.

The barber shop became a gospel center, and the barber and his son, Emilio, became the expounders of the Word of God. When Emilio married, the little group interested in the study of the Bible found a home open to them and a more congenial place for their discussions and Bible readings.

Last fall the Rev. Clifford A. Douglass, of the Presbyterian Mission station at Medellin, visited this out-of-the-way place. He found that Emilio and his wife, and his father and two other men and their wives, gave evidence of being sincere evangelical Christians; that Emilio had been holding meetings with the little group of believers in his home. Emilio's work was not confined to the town in which he lived. He had been invited to a coffee plantation about two miles out of town, where a man and his wife and mother, several grown sons, and two

married daughters and their husbands desired gospel teaching. This group gathered together every evening for Bible reading, under the direction of Emilio. Mr. Douglass held three meetings in Supia and spent one evening with the group on the coffee plantation. There forty people gathered in the humble home of a man who can not read nor write, but who desires that all those who are dear to him should learn, and that they should read the truth for themselves and for him.



VILLAGE CONGREGATION IN SALVADOR

Bibles in Salvador

There is still pioneer colportage work to be done in the Central American republics. Many places have seldom, if ever, been visited by a colporteur. Our difficulties so far have been in securing the right kind of personnel for making a systematic canvass. The colporteur needs to

be a hardened soldier of the Lord. He must be prepared to suffer hardships in many ways, such as Paul enumerated in his letters. The days of intolerance and persecution have not passed.

Fortunately, we were able to get in touch with the right kind of man to undertake this work, in the person of Mr. R. C. Halliday, a Canadian, and a Toronto University man. At the urgent solicitation of the Baptist Mission in Salvador, Mr. Halliday began his work there, and continued it throughout the year. The Baptists and Central American Missions co-operated most heartily with us. All the time Mr. Halliday was there, one of their native workers was put at our disposal, and worked with Mr. Halliday. The Republic of Salvador

is the smallest and most thickly populated, as well as one of the most progressive of the five Central American republics. There are about two hundred and forty-three cities, towns and villages in Salvador. One hundred and twenty-seven towns and villages were systematically covered during the year, and 1,000 Bibles, 2,445 New Testaments, and 47,922 portions were circulated. Mr. Halliday states that of the one hundred and twenty-seven towns he recalls that seventy-nine have no testimony of the gospel. What has been done in Salvador urgently needs to be done in all the other four republics. This is a challenge to us for the future.

A Russian New Testament in Guatemala

It is a long way from a Russian university city to the town of Virginia, a United Fruit Company town in Guatemala, but something happened to Alexander Synegub in Guatemala that he never experienced in Russia. Colportage work affords great opportunities to win souls for Christ, and Mr. Schulert was used of God to bring salvation to Mr. Synegub. Mr. Synegub, before the world war, was a professor in a Russian university, and during the war was a Russian officer of high rank. During the revolution in Russia his family was executed, with the exception of himself and brother. He saw the assassins cut his uncle's throat. He himself was already tied to a tree to be next. As if by a miracle he was saved at the last moment because one day he had befriended a soldier, who was now a revolutionist, and who recognized him before it was too late.

During Mr. Schulert's colportage trip to Guatemala, while canvassing the town of Virginia, he saw this man, now an assistant civil engineer, walking with bowed head, and having the appearance of one who was in trouble. Mr. Schulert made Virginia his headquarters for several days, which gave him a splendid opportunity to talk to this man about his soul's salvation. In the meantime a Russian New Testament was secured for him. In a letter, this Russian writes: "I don't think you could have sent the Testament to anyone who needs to use it any more than I. When I get to thinking of myself sometimes, I feel that I am the worst sinner here. I wish to thank you again for your sympathetic assistance in showing me the way of salvation."

The Scriptures Wanted in Honduras

Two years ago when I visited Honduras, a feeling of pity came over me for that distressed country which had just passed through a year of fratricidal warfare. It seemed as if the most hopeful men for the future had either been driven out of the country, or killed in the revolution.

Letters from several of the missionaries bring tidings of a religious awakening in their fields. A worker in the Central American Mission writes: "I am writing you to ask if you will ship two boxes of Bibles and Testaments for our work here in the interior. Our work is growing, and we have need of Bibles. We should like to have a supply on hand for our men to take out with them on their evangelistic trips, and we need many here in our work in town and the outstation." From the Evangelical Mission in the northern part of Honduras we are informed that the mission voted, at their



A VIEW FROM THE BIBLE HOUSE IN CRISTOBAL, CANAL ZONE

last quarterly conference, to take on a colporteur, and have asked us what special terms can be given them in the way of Bibles. Of late mail orders for Bibles from Honduras have multiplied over those of former years.

In Nicaragua

This has been a trying year for all. The revolution has interfered greatly with the sale of Bibles; but, "if the outlook is very dark, we must remember that ours is not an outlook, but an uplook."

Translation Continuing

The entire New Testament is now translated in the Cakchiquel Indian dialect, under the able supervision of the Rev. W. C. Townsend. Some time will still have to be given to the

revision, and making of final corrections. Plans for publication of same are now under way.

Some translation work was done among the Quiché Indians during the year. The Rev. Amos Bradley, of the Primitive Methodist Mission, and Dr. Paul Burgess, of the Presbyterian Mission, who have so far cooperated in the translation work that has been done, were on furlough during the greater part of the year. This coming year the work will be resumed.

Translation in the dialect of the Mam Indians has been started under the direction of the Rev. H. W. Peck of the Presbyterian Mission. The Gospels of Luke and John have been translated. Six translators were employed. Dr. Peck is now in the States on furlough, and writes that he expects to spend several months at Harvard University, in a comparative study of the languages of Maya stock, in order to work out and refine the Mam grammar.

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Tributes to Dr. Haven

Many tributes to Dr. Haven have been appearing in the church press and in letters received at the Bible House. Two are quoted below:

Minutes of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America

IN the death of William Ingraham Haven, June 5, 1928, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America lost one of its founders and one of the most valued friends that it has ever had. Dr. Haven was a member of the Committee on Correspondence which issued the invitations to the various denominations to attend the National Conference on Interchurch Federation, held in Carnegie Hall, New York, in 1905, out of which the Federal Council grew. Dr. Haven himself attended this gathering and was one of the speakers upon the program. When the first meeting of the Council was convened in Philadelphia in 1908, Dr. Haven was a member of the body, representing the Methodist Episcopal Church. At every subsequent quadrennial meeting of the Council, with a single exception, Dr. Haven had been present, and had been a trusted counselor.

In the daily work of the Council, throughout the twenty years since its organization, few men have given more practical assistance or been more eagerly sought for advice and guidance. He was a member of the Administrative Committee of the Council throughout its whole existence until the time of his death. For four years he served as its chairman. There was hardly an important department of the Federal Council's work with which Dr. Haven had not been in close contact; especially was this true of the Commission on International Justice and Goodwill and the Committee on Relations with the Orient, of which he served as chairman for many years. * * *

The Administrative Committee of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America records its profound sense of loss in the death of one whose life had been given to

the cause of Christ and His church; who had endeared himself to a host of friends in every denomination; whose counsel was sought on all important questions, and whose interdenominational outlook and world vision made him a type of the true Christian of our day.

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From the Editorial Page of the "Christian Advocate"

SELDOM does a man so perfectly meet all the requirements of his office as did Dr. William I. Haven, Secretary of the American Bible Society for twenty-nine years, who passed out of this life in Summit, N. J., only a few hours after his friend Bishop Wilson had answered the inevitable call. His portrait and the facts of his career have already been printed in these columns; but one who has enjoyed Doctor Haven's personal acquaintance and who has been intimately associated with him in some of his many activities can not rest content with a news report. Doctor Haven was a rare man. He was a New England gentleman in his breeding and culture. At times, in the intensity of his convictions and in the zeal and vigor with which he advocated or defended them, he was the true son of his distinguished father, Bishop Gilbert Haven. In his industry, intelligence and practical sense, he was himself. The American Bible Society never had a better Secretary. He had imagination enough to lead it out into new fields and to conceive large extensions of its service, and he had that practical "Yankee" faculty that so commends itself to auditors and inspection committees. He enlarged the business and improved the methods. A Methodist double-dyed, he so bore himself in his interdenominational board as to be above criticism. The most successful of all interdenominational enterprises in America, he has been its real leader for a generation.

The Human Element in the Secretaryship

By the Rev. George William Brown, General Secretary

WHEN I told my friends in the ministry, last April, that I was about to become a General Secretary with the American Bible Society, many of them prophesied that I would sadly miss the human element so characteristic of the pastoral office. A seminary classmate from the Middle West wrote that to him no position of religious leadership outside the pastorate offered an adequate compensation for the intimacies of fellowship and service which he enjoyed with his parishioners. Another clergyman bluntly remarked, "No swivel chair for me!" Others expressed a similar sentiment.

After nearly a decade and a half in the ministry meeting children and youth, the middle-aged and the elderly, receiving their confidences, enjoying their comradeship and endeavoring to obey the apostolic injunction to "rejoice with them that rejoice; weep with them that weep," the prospect of a subtraction of such fellowship was far from pleasant. I must admit that it was with no inconsiderable foreboding that I bade farewell to pastoral duties and delights. One question big in my mind, was: "Will there be any similar human element in the secretaryship?"

Four months with the American Bible Society have allayed my distrust of that phase of my new work. I have not found myself divorced from contacts with life. The human element has not been lacking, nor has the pastoral instinct been ruthlessly suppressed. Just a few days ago a woman came to my office from the salesroom with a Greek Testament which she had just purchased. She had once been a student of classical Greek and now wants to renew her acquaintance with it. She had a question about vexing infinitive forms which appeared in an edition she had purchased somewhere else. Supplied with a scholarly textbook, she came to me with her new volume to discuss the subject of the differences in text in the two books. An interesting conversation ensued, suggestive of sacred things and built around

our Lord's life as that life is recorded in the Greek Testament. Only a few days earlier an illiterate negro boy wandered into my office having found somewhere the Society's little folder "How to Use the Bible." He was a dishwasher in some hotel and, having been converted, wanted to do some specific religious service. He thought that distributing the folder which had been helpful to him might prove a blessing to others. He was ready to witness according to his ability. The range between the infinitives of the New Testament in Greek and the stammering of illiteracy is wide with human interest at every intervening point.

Mother's Day occurred shortly after I came to New York. It is an annual event where the element of human interest emerges in big proportions. At that time the true pastor does not foolishly sentimentalize, but he does not forget the homes of his people where death and sorrow have given the day a new significance. "Mother's Day will mean nothing here," I thought. But I had guessed wrongly. From a friend of the Society living in New Jersey came a note

I am sending you today Two dollars for the American Bible Society. This money is not exactly the widows mite, but it is part of a widows treasure. The two half dollars were coins of my parents. The 1857 quarter was given me by my grandmother when I was two years old.

GIFTS WITH A TREASURED HISTORY

saying: "I am sending you one dollar which my mother gave me long ago to spend as I wished. How to spend it I have just determined. I am sending it to you with a prayer that it may be many times multiplied. My mother was a great missionary worker and I know she would be pleased, could she know, just what I am doing with the dollar." At the same time came a gift from a woman in Kansas "in memory of my darling mother." There were several coins in the envelope each with a sacred personal history. A part of the letter is reproduced on this page. These notes, two among many of similar character, indicate that Mother's Day in a secretaryship does not pass without its share of human interest.

Without exaggeration, the mail coming to a Secretary's desk pulsates with heart-throbs. No working day passes, despite its exactions, without its meed in human interest. What Secretary

would not be deeply moved upon the receipt of a letter from a Baroness in Germany nearly ninety-six years old, acknowledging with gratitude her election to Life Membership in the American Bible Society and praying "that the Lord may continue to bless your efforts to spread his Holy Word throughout the whole world." To minds given to imagination one visualizes a gentle old woman who has seen over nine decades come and go, born the year after Goethe died, linking Germany's culture and Romanticism of a century ago with its prosaic post-war Reconstruction of 1928. Wistfully she clings to her title! Hopefully she observes Hindenburg's republic! Faithfully she reads her Bible and gladly does she contribute to an agency for its support located thousands of miles away! Who thinks the human element is lacking in a Secretary's correspondence?

Making the timepiece go counterclockwise from ninety-six back to childhood occasions many revolutions of its hands. The Secretary's correspondence goes all the way back with them. Letters have been coming from the children of American Indians who have received Bibles through the cooperation of the American Bible Society. One youngster writes as follows: "Thank you for my Bible. It will be a great help to me in reading it oftener. I read it whenever I get a chance." A note from another includes this paragraph: "I have received the Bible which you've sent to the Indian boys and girls, so I am thanking you. I shall try and take care of it and will read it. I know it will help me to be better and draw me near to

Jesus our Saviour." The very day this article is being written the mail contained a check for \$100 from an internationally known millionaire. A few days ago a friend wrote that her grandfather, more than fifty years ago, "was one of the first colporteurs to South America. This was a side issue as he traveled on horseback purchasing hides which he shipped to the U. S. A."

A seminary friend of the writer, a missionary in Persia, recently advised us by letter of the number of Bibles and portions of Scripture which he was able to distribute in the city of Tabriz, and added: "My mother is now out visiting us in the land where Father spent thirty-three years. Mother has three children as missionaries in Persia, so when she wants to visit her family she has to come to this end of the earth. We are thankful for your assistance in being able to carry on the work Father started."

This article could be greatly extended, for human interest abounds in the activities of the American Bible Society. Official colleagues, the Bible House force, the Board of Managers, the Agency Secretaries, the friends in other benevolent and missionary agencies, constitute a worthy association, emphasizing the attractions of a personnel identified with a great religious enterprise. In addition, far and near the world over, are the countless friends and supporters whose visits and correspondence add human interest in great abundance to the work of a Secretary of the American Bible Society.

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An Anti-Bible Society: "Without Profit"

On a recent editorial page of the "Christian Herald," in a prominent position, appeared this ringing statement by its Editor-in-chief, an Honorary Vice-President of the American Bible Society.

A FORMAL application has been made to the Secretary of State in Albany, New York, for the incorporation of the American Anti-Bible Society.

According to the articles of incorporation, the purposes of this organization are to discredit the Bible by publication and speech, to promote the repeal of all laws requiring the reading of portions of the Scriptures in schools, and organizing general propaganda against the doctrine that the Bible is the Word of God.

Mr. Charles Recht, who also acts as attorney for the Soviet Government in the United States, filed the application for incorporation. It is stated that the society is to be operated on a nonprofit basis! There is no doubt in my

mind but that it will be so operated, if operated at all. Without profit to itself, without profit to the general public, and without profit to any good cause,—this is its destiny. Little wonder that the judge called upon to consider the application turned it back denied.

But, while there is no doubt but that it would have been a society unprofitable and unfit, it is more than possible that its efforts would have contributed, indirectly at least, toward a wider reading of the Book of Books. The fires that were lighted in another time to destroy the sacred volume only carried it on letters of flame to the ends of the earth. Persecution is at last always the friend of a good cause.

DANIEL A. POLING.

"How Shall We Get through the Year?"

By the Rev. Robert Irwin, Secretary, Siam Agency

This was the question the Rev. Mr. Irwin, Secretary of our Siam Agency, asked when he was informed by the Home Office that no increase could be made to his annual budget. The accompanying article indicates how advantageously additional funds could be used.

COLPORTEURS and supervisors distributed the Scriptures more widely during 1927 than ever before, especially in French Indo-China and western Yunnan, penetrated more out-of-the-way places in Siam, and made a beginning in Kwang-Si Province. There are still immense stretches of Tai territory outside Siam untouched by the Bible or missionary and hard to reach. We had planned personally to superintend a large force of colporteurs in North and Northeast Indo-China this dry season, and place two permanent colporteurs in western Kwang-Si Province; but just now a Home Office cablegram announces the amount of our 1928 appropriation. Our estimates, scraped to blood, called for thirty per cent more than we have been granted. This means a scrapping of plans for new work and drastic retrenchment of regular work. How shall we ever get through the year?

Our colporteurs have traveled widely in all kinds of weather and met all sorts of treatment, usually in the spirit of the Salvation Army lassie who answers insult with a "God bless you"—the spirit of the Master. Noi Kawng spent over two years at Muang Baw, in North Yunnan. Wei-Yuan is its Chinese name, and it is thirty-nine days north of Noi Kawng's home in Siam (15 miles a day). He returned home six months ago, leaving the work of distributing and teaching with a native Tai Baw he had trained. We limit ourselves to his report and leave the reader's knowledge of conditions in China and imagination to fill in the details of a colporteur's life there:

"The work of God in this country is very quiet. As far as I can judge the hearts of the Baw people, they want to accept Christianity, material benefits for their body, protection from civil authorities, rest from trouble, and monthly wages. Sin, the world, and a future

life are meaningless to them. Whenever I go up into a house, they all raise their hands in homage, seat me, and call me foreign prince with great merit. I protest, but they will not listen. When I teach or read, they salaam, but they take in nothing; only their mouth gives out what is in their hearts. So, here are about 800,000 persons who know neither right nor left. Should we not be anxious for them? Should we not labor to teach them till they are enlightened, and do it quickly? They are nearly on a level with the beasts. Their life is pitiable."



A COUNTRY HOUSE IN CHIENGRUNG

All in the Day's Work

A medical missionary relates this experience from his itinerating:

"The whole village was down with the flu. Our work was cut out for us, and we emptied our medicine kit. Four days effected a transformation. On Sunday the chapel was crowded, with fifty sitting on the ground below. Two

other villages were present. A hundred and twenty communicants partook of the Sacrament. Eighteen new members were received on confession of their faith. *For twenty-four years, since the last American missionary visited the field, Kru Chaima, a Siamese national, has held this community of Kamu Christians together.* He is a sterling illustration of the steadfastness of a consecrated Siamese character. Here is seen the transformation of an animistic people, who exchanged evil spirits for the Holy Spirit. Loving and worshipping the Holy, instead of fearing and bowing to the evil, will work a miracle in the lives of many people."

The Power of the Word

Ah Chip, a colporteur for many years, tells how he became a Christian. "One day I spied a soiled bit of paper on the road, picked it up and could read only two words, 'Siang ti' (God). I threw it down, but the words stuck

in my mind. I had to think about them and about Christianity, and the more I thought, the more I saw I must become a Christian." Another colporteur relates that he read part of a Gospel, and studied over it for seven years before he was willing to surrender.

A Presbyterian missionary, who is active in the service of distributing Scriptures, tells of an unfortunate man "who went down to Chieng-

God better. Knowledge of His Word increases their knowledge of God through faith. Preachers do not easily make people understand, because the religion is new to them; but when they read the Scriptures with their own eyes, they get the meaning better.

Once, in the church at Ban Tah, they asked, "Have you the Scriptures?" They replied, "Oh, we had the Scriptures long before we were baptized." We could give many other important examples, but it is impossible to compare the fruits of religion with the fruits of trade. There is a plain statement that the natural tendencies of many districts and many countries have been changed and improved by the influence of the Scriptures, because the people saw the fruits of them. "A good tree bringeth forth good fruit."

The hope of the Bible Society is to give the Scriptures to all; such as the herdboys, the Chinese washermen, the street sweepers, the brawlers, the convicts in prison, the sick in hospitals, the princes and people, both high and low. Let us not be indolent. Freely we received, let us freely give. Do not forget to hold them out to friends and neighbors, and you will be light to them also. And please not to forget to offer to them also yourselves. Try to dig down deep. Reading alone is not enough. We who are Christians ought to have the Word of the Lord with us all the time, and be ready to give it to others, so that "every knee shall bow and every tongue worship him."

The Blind

Thirteen years ago we adapted the Braille system of writing for the blind to the Tai language, all dialects, and taught two Tai Yuan persons to read and write. No further interest was manifested until this year. A colporteur found two blind Siamese at Petriew, and told them about the system. They asked to be



TEACHERS AND COLPORTEURS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR A THREE-YEAR RESIDENCE IN THE MOUNTAINS

mai with leprosy a couple of years ago, and has returned practically cured. He became a Christian while there, and since returning has done splendid work, preaching and giving out Scriptures. His wife and mother-in-law have become Christians; and also another man of Muang Hai. There is great opposition to this start of Christianity there. His fellow villagers have tried to drive him and family out, but they have stayed so far.

"As in Muang Ya, a good number of Scriptures are used here for teaching the Christians. Mrs. Beebe spent considerable time getting the women of her class to memorize verses. With a great deal of effort they learned John 3:16. One Sunday, when the congregation started this verse, it was interesting to notice how the attention of one woman, who had learned it in the class, was concentrated, when she heard some Scripture she was familiar with. It may have been the only thing in the whole service she understood."

A Native Pastor's Observance of Universal Bible Sunday

The Rev. Banchong Banasiddsi, pastor of the First Church of Chiengmai, in his sermon last year on Universal Bible Sunday, paid the following tribute to the American Bible Society:

The Bible Society is a large part of the Christian religion, because this Society helps people to know



A SIAMESE FAMILY IN MAHACHIA

taught, and for five months Colporteur Cham-rass has been teaching them. They are old men, and their progress has not been rapid but steady. Their calloused fingers make it hard for them to distinguish the embossed dots. We suggested they use their little fingers, and they have found them much more sensitive than the others.

Almost Overwhelmingly Tremendous

By the Rev. J. L. McLaughlin, D.D., Secretary, Northwestern Agency

In the Northwestern Agency of the American Bible Society, which includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, and South Dakota, Dr. McLaughlin, with headquarters at Chicago, finds his opportunities and responsibilities tremendous to the point of being almost overwhelming. Assistance comes to him from a variety of sources.

AS we visualize a year's work carried on by the Northwestern Agency we are conscious of opportunities unmet and a magnitude of responsibilities in giving the Word to the 23,000,000 people within this area that simply staggers one. Although 1927 was by far the best year in the history of the Agency, 976,414 issues of the Scriptures having been distributed, it seems an insignificant output compared to the possibilities.

The Pastors Help

We have adhered to the policy of making the American Bible Society the ordnance department for all the pastors within our territory as well as for church and mission workers of every creed and faith. There are some 19,000 pastors within this Agency, most of whom have been approached in conferences or by letter. Ever-increasing numbers of them are using the American Bible Society and cooperating with us in the effort to spread the printed Word as well as to preach the Word. This is an essential part of our work; for, do all that we can, we are convinced that the last home and the last individual can never be reached without a very much-increased fervor for cooperation on the part of the organized churches. We have assiduously tried to create that enthusiasm.

The Rev. Ernest A. Bell, D.D., stands out prominently as a leader in open-air evangelism here in Chicago. For many years he and his band of faithful workers have occupied their "cathedral pulpit" on a prominent corner within the Loop district with remarkable results. The distribution of the Scriptures is a most prominent part of these night services. Of a single evening they sometimes distribute the Scriptures in fifteen or twenty different languages as the passing throngs stop to listen to the message.

Over seventy-five pastors and missionary workers assisted in the organized open-air services throughout the city during the summer.

All of the public parks, excepting one, are now open for such services, and very great good has come from this work, which is now an established part of the religious work in this great city. The American Bible Society cooperates with all of these in the furnishing of the Scriptures for their meetings.

High-school Students as Allies

From time to time being invited to address groups of high school pupils we have been led to value very highly the Book of Proverbs as being especially adapted to these young people. The pungent, challenging expressions in the



"WHERE CROSS THE CROWDED WAYS OF LIFE"

Proverbs capture their imagination in a very particular manner.

Based on this experience, we were led to experiment on a movement to place a copy of the Book of Proverbs in the hand of the students. To start with, we wrote the proposition in detail to six different high school centers, to the most interested individual we could locate in each center. Four of these responded. One declared it impracticable, as "it could not be done"; one entered half-heartedly into the proposition, ordering a few copies as "a try-out"; the other two took it up enthusiastically, thanking me for the suggestion, and ordered, one 600 copies and the other 1,500 copies of the book for distribution. In special sessions the books were presented and distributed, and enthusiastic reports returned concerning the outcome. In one center, over one hundred of the pupils came back for personal conference concerning the Proverbs, the entire Bible, and

wanted either other portions or a complete copy of the New Testament or a Bible.

The Office Lends Assistance

It was Saturday afternoon. The office was officially closed; but we could not turn a deaf ear to the tap-tapping at the door, feeling that anyone who would presume to come so far out of office hours should not be denied. We opened the door and found a bright-faced young couple, undeniably Hebrew, who timidly asked if we kept the Hebrew Scriptures in stock. They were but recently married and, in setting up housekeeping, had decided that, among other things, they needed a copy of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament, in their mother tongue. They had searched the bookstores of Chicago in vain, and had been directed to our Society. They were wonderfully pleased with the volumes we showed them, and purchased a nice Bible for themselves, and also bought another for a friend whom they wished to have one also.

The Postman Gives His Aid

A brief search through our mail bag reveals how large a fraction of our work is carried on by correspondence and through the routine service of the depository. The following letters are taken at random from our files:

I called on Mrs. Anderson yesterday. She had received her Bible and was delighted with it. I was glad you had sent her one, and she asked me to write and thank you for it. I think your Society is doing a wonderful work.

* * *

I understand your Society gives thousands of Bibles each year. Am writing in behalf of a poor old lady, who is an invalid and partially paralyzed. Recently her home and all she had burned to the ground, her Bible along with the rest. She expressed a wish for a small Swedish Bible with large print. She is about seventy years old. Has been sick the past four years. Thanking you for anything you can do.

* * *

We would be most grateful, if you could supply us in our declining years with one of your free Bibles. Time was when we need not ask for charity; but that time has gone forever. A few months ago fire destroyed our home and practically all its contents. Our two Bibles went, and since that time we have not known the pleasure of sitting down to read the precious Book. Our neighbors were kind, but no Bible has come to us. A friend said to us, "I have received one from them, and I think they will do as much for you." We have passed our eightieth milestone.

* * *

Because of an accident my eyesight and I parted company thirty years ago. It was several years before I knew anything about the Moon type. Since I learned it I can say, "Thy Book is my companion still!" By friendly help I secured all the volumes from the American Bible Society. From what source I do not know; but the books were sent to me at a greatly

reduced cost. Without that help, it is not likely that I ever would have received the books I love and which are far more dear to me today.

Many times as I have been spelling out these words, the Holy Spirit has illumined them with a light not seen before. Many of the passages I thought I knew before. When I read them in this necessarily slow manner, they bring a message not heard in other days; in truth, this book is a veritable treasury of things new and old, an inexhaustible treasury of things needful.

"She Hath Done What She Could"

In the very bloom of young womanhood, an attractive and talented young school-teacher, she was stricken with brain fever and only barely kept from slipping over the brink. After long, weary weeks, she was brought back to life, only to remain an invalid in the flesh for these seventeen long years, each day a day of pain and suffering as she has been kept to her couch. Added to that and the intense sufferings and relapses, some ten years ago her eyesight was entirely lost, and during these years she has lived in physical darkness. She soon learned to read the raised letters and revelled in her beloved Word, as she communed with her Saviour and Lord, until six years ago, when a paralytic stroke left her right side and lower limbs physically useless, and her frail left hand and keen, alert head only at her command. Undaunted, she learned to read the raised letters with her left hand, and the hitherto untrained fingers mastered the pen which has inscribed the records of her soul communion with the Eternal.

With a tender solicitude that manifests her closeness to God, she has sent a copy of the Gospel of John to every person in her community, extending her sphere of activities to her township and groups of individuals throughout the entire state. With almost every physical motion accompanied by keenest pain and sheer exhaustion, but with an indomitable will to serve for Him, she, in her weakness and pain, has accomplished a work that would put to shame many an organized effort that is bolstered up by board rooms and office machinery.

A most wonderful character, and I would that all who read this might participate in the spiritual feast that all experience who are permitted to visit that shrine-like room where she spends her days and nights. Suffering? Yes, physically so, but manifestly living in the presence of the Master, and conveying, to all who call, the beauty of a life hid in Christ. You would agree with me that He speaks to her the message so aptly given to the maiden in Bethany that night, "She hath done what she could."

Oh, that the multitudes in their strength might be possessed of the zeal and vision of this rare sufferer!

Arresting Comments about the Bible

WE are indebted to the Rev. William P. Taylor, pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Orange, New Jersey, for the following quotations. Mr. Taylor has recently published an attractive little brochure entitled "The Bible: Notable Comments," from which these excerpts have been made.

ADAMS, JOHN QUINCY: "So great is my veneration for the Bible, that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens of their country and respectable members of society."

BEECHER, HENRY WARD: "Let man sink the Bible in the sea, he will still have the same voyage to make, but with the chart and compass overboard."

CAINE, HALL: "Whatever strong situations I have in my books * * * are taken from the Bible. 'The Deemster' is the story of the Prodigal Son; 'The Bondman' is the story of Esau and Jacob; 'The Scapegoat' is the story of Eli and his sons; and 'The Manxman' is the story of David and Uriah."

DICKENS, CHARLES: To a friend who, praising his style and asking where he got it, Dickens said: "From the New Testament, of course."

EVERETT, EDWARD: "All the distinctive features and superiorities of our republican institutions are from the Bible."

FRANKLIN, BENJAMIN: "A Bible and a newspaper in every house."

GLADSTONE, WILLIAM E.: "It is supremacy, not precedence, that we ask for the Bible."

HARRISON, BENJAMIN: "If you blot out of your statute book, your constitution, your family life, all that is taken from the Sacred Book, what would there be left to bind society together?"

JAY, JOHN, when asked whether he had any farewell address to leave his children, replied: "They have the Bible."

KANT, IMMANUEL: "The Bible is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced."

LANDOR, WALTER SAVAGE: "The Bible contains more specimens of genius and taste than any other volume."

MILTON, JOHN: "There are no songs comparable to the songs of Zion; no orations equal to those of the prophets; no politics like those the Scriptures teach."

NEWTON, ISAAC: "I find more sure marks

of authenticity in the Bible, than in any profane history whatever."

PARKER, JOSEPH: "After reading Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle, we feel that the specific difference between their words and Christ's is the difference between an inquiry and a revelation."

ROOSEVELT, THEODORE: "No other book ever written in any other tongue has ever so affected the whole life of a people, as the Authorized Version of the Scriptures has affected the lives of the English-speaking peoples."

WHAT THE BIBLE CAN DO FOR US

During the darkest days of the Great War a Swiss professor sat in his lecture-room at Zurich trying in vain to concentrate his attention upon his lectures. Across the border he could hear the guns booming, and he realized that every shot was mowing down young men like his own pupils. All that he said about God and Christ, about salvation and brotherly love, seemed to him a mockery, and for a time he felt as if he had lost God out of the world.

In his dilemma he turned to the pages of Israel's prophets. There he read of men who had been through experiences like his own. They had seen their country devastated, their homes destroyed, their countrymen carried into captivity, the temple in which they worshipped leveled with the ground. Yet they had been able, in and through it all, to discern the working of a divine purpose and to retain their faith that love could triumph over man's ignorance and sin. Through the prophets, Professor Ragatz found his way back to a living God, Master of the fate of present-day Europe, exactly as in the days of Isaiah and Jeremiah He was Master of the fate of Israel. * * *

What the Bible did for the Swiss professor, it has done for men in every age. By acquainting men with those who have found God before them, it has helped them to find God for themselves; and it has done this at all points at which human need is greatest. Through the Bible, God has been teaching men what to think, what to do, how to feel, and He is teaching them in all these ways today.

—From "Beliefs That Matter"
by William Adams Brown.

SEWARD, WILLIAM H.: "The whole hope of human progress is suspended on the ever-growing influence of the Bible."

TENNYSON, ALFRED: "The Bible ought to be read, were it only for the sake of the grand English in which it is written—an education in itself."

WYCLIFFE, JOHN: "The Sacred Scriptures are the property of the people, and one which no one should be allowed to wrest from them."

Notes and Comments

A RECEPTION was held at the International House in New York City, on August 9, in honor of sixty of the Japanese delegates to the World's Sunday-school Convention recently held in Los Angeles. During the occasion souvenir copies of the English New Testament and Psalms in the pocket edition were presented to the delegates. The Rev. Seishiro Iwamura, of Tokio, leader of the group, expressed their appreciation.

* * *

Among recent issues from the Bible House has been a grant of Bibles and Testaments for the use of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition soon to sail upon its adventurous task. The Scriptures were furnished for the libraries of the ships, The Chelsea and The City of New York, and for the library at the base camp on the Ross Ice Barrier.

A FRIEND of the American Bible Society from Cincinnati wrote us a few weeks ago as follows:

On the Empress of Canada, the steamer that brought me from Yokohama to Vancouver, was a copy of the American Bible Society report for 1927, placed there by your agent in Tokio. It was about the only good reading matter to be found on the ship. The reports were good. Place me on your mailing list for 1928.

MR. GODFREY HIRST, sub-Agent of the American Bible Society in Hankow, China, who has just returned to his station, writes us, among other significant facts:

At Shenchow, in Hunan, the large educational plant of the Reformed Church Mission, which cost about \$100,000 with building and equipment, was burnt and the homes of the missionaries desecrated; but it is encouraging to find that of the church members fully one-fifth stood firmly through the persecution, and the work of preaching continued in a small way.

THE California Christian Advocate had this note in its issue of May 24:

Secretary A. W. Mell announces that Mr. B. O. Tolentino, a most earnest, devoted and successful Bible colporteur from the Philippines, has taken up Bible work in the Pacific Agency of the American Bible Society, among the eight thousand Filipino immigrants on the Pacific coast. With a large group of Filipinos he recently sailed with the Alaska salmon fleet, in order to do Bible work among the salmon fishermen of the North on ships and in canneries. He carries a large supply of Scriptures for mission work in Alaska.

THE illustration of a definite and lasting purpose is contained in the following item from the *Chicago Tribune* of May 19:

PARKER, S. D.—The *Parker New Era*, a weekly newspaper here, has, after twenty-two years and eight months, completed printing the Holy Bible in

installments. Charles Hackett, pioneer editor, began the installments and his successors have continued the custom.

A RECENT message from Mr. G. A. Perkins, in charge of the subdepository at New Orleans, gives this summary of his work in the area flooded by the Mississippi last year:

The four weeks that I was out in the flooded district we sent in orders to the Agency headquarters at Dallas for a total of 50,165 volumes, to be sent free of charge to the flood sufferers.

All the theologians in the state could not have done more to awaken a fraternal feeling among the different churches and the different races, than the American Bible Society has done in the distribution of the Scriptures in the flood district. The pastors of the different churches are cooperating in this work.

THE Rev. George P. Taubman, minister of the First Christian Church of Long Beach, California, leader of one of the large men's Bible Classes in America, in *The Lookout* under "Will Men Read the Bible," says in part:

Can the average man be induced to read the Bible?

One of the most encouraging results of the men's organized Bible-class movement is the marked increase of Bible reading on the part of men, and the increase of Bible study on the part of many men.

The answer to the above question is "Yes." The average man can be induced to read the Bible, and thousands are, through the influence of men's classes.

We have sold and given away thousands of copies of the portions of the New Testament printed by the American Bible Society and for sale at one cent each. This is a little, flexible book, easily carried in the coat pocket, and we find men read these at their lunch hour and on street cars and busses.

THE Cleveland Public Library reports a use of our literature which may be a suggestion to others. In response to their request, copies of a dozen of our leaflets were sent to that library and this message was received:

I think you may be interested to know what we did with it. It was shown in a bulletin board exhibit with book jackets and a handsome gold poster, lettered in purple "The World's Best Seller—The Bible." One bulletin board used was in our main lobby just inside the main entrance; after remaining there a couple of weeks, it was brought down to a bulletin board in the basement and remained there several weeks more. We had numerous inquiries regarding the pamphlets, and these we referred to you.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1928

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

INSTITUTED 1816

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

LEGACIES

ANNUITY GIFTS

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES

	\$786 36
Received on Donation Account ...	361 31
	<u>\$1,147 67</u>

RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES
DONATED

RECAPITULATION

Legacies	\$ 6,912 97
Annuity Gifts	30,950 00
Auxiliary Societies on Donation Account	361 31

MISCELLANEOUS

	\$29,884 51
Total Cash Receipts...	\$87,839 52

JOURNAL ENTRIES

Annuity Gifts—1st mortgage	
Sinking Fund Bond, credited	
at	\$1 00

RECEIPTS

\$137.026 00

DISBURSEMENTS

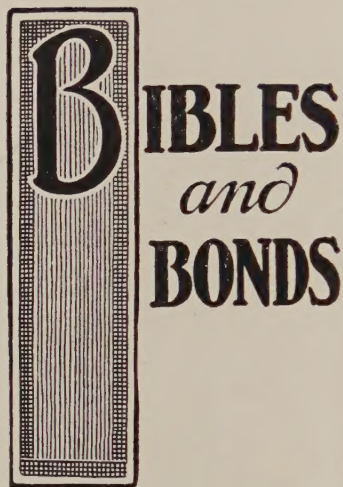
\$137,026 00

Publication Department	\$ 9,657 35
Balance to August, 1928	21,084 07
	<u>\$30,741 42</u>

Total Cash Balance\$40,009 16

This booklet has just been revised

It contains in clear
and concise form a
list of



*Questions
and
Answers
regarding
Annuity Bond Agreements
of the
American Bible Society
Rates
4% TO 9%*

Funds received by the American Bible Society on the annuity basis help this Society in its important missionary work of *translating, publishing and distributing* the Scriptures "without note or comment" in scores of different languages and dialects.

ASK FOR BOOKLET NO. 62A

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

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BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE
NEW YORK, N. Y.